

# Grace is the Root, Our Works are the Fruit

If we are saved by grace, what is the purpose of our works? If God does it all, do our works matter? We all long for purpose, but in our daily lives as Christ's disciples, we can find it challenging to understand the relationship between grace and works. Our thoughts and expectations might quickly slide into legalism on one hand or laziness on the other. The apostle Paul clarified the relationship between grace and works in his letters to early Christians. By studying his writing, we can gain a deeper understanding of how God's grace and our works cooperate to help us grow in Christlikeness.

**AWARENESS** Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What is the difference between being sick and being dead?
- Think about a plant. How would you explain the relationship between a plant's roots and its fruit?



**LISTEN TO THE EPISODE:** [Grace is the Root, Our Works are the Fruit](#)

**READ** [Ephesians 2:1-10](#), [Titus 2:11-14](#), [Philippians 2:12-13](#), [Romans 6:1-4](#)

**REFLECTION** After listening, consider the following questions:

- How does [Ephesians 2:10](#) help us maintain a right understanding that our faithfulness and good works are the fruit, or result, of God's work of grace in our lives?
- In segment 2, hosts Darrell Delaney and Scott Hoezee encouraged us to think about the relationship between grace and works in terms of training: grace transforms us, teaches us, and tutors us; the Holy Spirit coaches us, and our works demonstrate our transformation. How is that similar or different to what you've been taught previously about grace and works?
- Why do you think it is challenging for humans to keep grace and works in their proper places? Why is it easy to slide into the extremes of legalism or laziness? Do you have a tendency toward one extreme or the other?
- In what ways did Darrell's sailing example aid your understanding of how grace and works cooperate in a life of faith?

**RELATED PASSAGES** for further study

[Romans 2:28-29](#), [Galatians 5](#), [2 Corinthians 5:17](#), [Philippians 1:6](#), [Romans 8:31-39](#)

## CONCLUSION

As they closed the episode, Darrell and Scott recommended engaging in daily examen, a practice of prayer and reflection on a day's events, to help us remember that God's grace is the root and our works are the fruit. They offered the following passages and questions as starting points for reflection:

- Morning anchor: Read [Ephesians 2:1-10](#) aloud and pause at the words: But God. Thank God for moving first in your life, then ask for one work he has prepared for you today.
- Midday check: Set a one-minute alarm. Pray [Titus 2](#): "Lord, teach me to say no, and lead me to what is good." Do the next right thing in front of you.
- Evening examen: Pray [Philippians 2:13](#) and/or [Psalm 139:23-24](#). Name one place you saw grace at work and one adjustment for tomorrow. Share it with a trusted friend for gentle accountability.

Challenge yourself to engage this practice on a daily or weekly basis for a period of time; journal or discuss with a trusted individual or study group what the Holy Spirit brought to light in your time of prayer and reflection.

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